

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. An apparatus for sealing at least two surfaces, comprising:
  - 5 a sealing member having an attachment portion fixed to one of the surfaces, said sealing member also including a seal portion connected to said attachment portion, wherein the seal portion comprises a deformable segment that faces the surfaces; and
  - 10 a receiving aperture defined by at least one of the surfaces, wherein said receiving aperture is adapted to receive and retain the deformable segment of the seal portion of said sealing member.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising at least one coating on a side of said sealing member opposite the surfaces.
- 15 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sealing member is at least partially made of a pliable material, such that the seal portion of said sealing member bends relative to the attachment portion of said sealing member.
- 20 4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the deformable segment of said sealing member is made of an elastomer sponge material.
- 25 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the attachment portion of said sealing member is made of a material that is less pliable than the seal portion.
6. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a rivet extending through the attachment portion of said sealing member and one of the surfaces to fix said sealing member to one of the surfaces.
- 30 7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising at least one engagement member extending from at least one of the surfaces to further

define said receiving aperture, wherein said at least one engagement member is capable of receiving the deformable segment of said sealing member.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sealing member defines an opening, and wherein the apparatus further comprises a fastener aligned with the opening in said sealing member and underlying a portion of the deformable segment of said sealing member, such that the deformable segment is disengaged from said receiving aperture when said fastener is at least partially loosened.

10 9. An apparatus for sealing at least two surfaces, comprising:  
a sealing member having an attachment portion fixed to one of the surfaces, said sealing member also including a seal portion connected to said attachment portion, wherein the seal portion comprises a deformable segment that faces the surfaces; and  
at least one engagement member extending from at least one of the surfaces, wherein said at least one engagement member is capable of defining at least a portion of a receiving aperture,  
wherein said sealing member is capable of being positioned such that the deformable segment is inserted into the receiving aperture.

15 10. The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising at least one coating on a side of said sealing member opposite the surfaces.

20 25 11. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said sealing member is at least partially made of a pliable material, such that the seal portion of said sealing member bends relative to the attachment portion of said sealing member.

30 12. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the deformable segment of said sealing member is made of an elastomer sponge material.

13. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the attachment end of said sealing member is made of a material that is less pliable than the seal portion.

5 14. The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a rivet extending through the attachment portion of said sealing member and one of the surfaces to fix said sealing member to one of the surfaces.

10 15. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said sealing member defines an opening, and wherein the apparatus further comprises a fastener aligned with the opening in said sealing member and underlying a portion of the deformable segment of said sealing member, such that the deformable segment is disengaged from said receiving aperture when said fastener is at least partially loosened.

15 16. A sealing member for sealing at least two surfaces, comprising:  
a rigid attachment portion fixed to one of the surfaces; and  
a pliant seal portion connected to said rigid attachment portion,  
wherein said pliant seal portion has a deformable segment facing the surfaces.

20 17. The sealing member according to claim 16, wherein the deformable segment is shaped such that a cross-section of the deformable segment in a direction substantially parallel to an outer surface of said sealing member varies in a direction substantially normal to the outer surface of said sealing member.

25 18. The sealing member according to claim 16, wherein said pliant seal portion has an angled end portion such that an outer surface of said pliant seal portion protrudes more than a portion of said pliant seal portion that is proximate the deformable segment.

30 19. The sealing member according to claim 16, wherein the deformable segment is made of an elastomer sponge material.

20. The sealing member according to claim 16, wherein said rigid attachment portion is at least partially made of at least one of aluminum and a composite material.

5 21. The sealing member according to claim 16, wherein said plain seal portion is at least partially made of an elastomer.

22. The sealing member according to claim 16, wherein the sealing member is at least partially covered with a wear resistant material.

10 23. The sealing member according to claim 22, wherein the wear resistant fabric is at least partially covered with a conductive scrim.

15 24. The sealing member according to claim 23, wherein the conductive scrim is at least partially covered with a conductive elastomer.

25. A method of sealing at least two surfaces with a sealing member having an attachment portion and a seal portion, comprising:

20 fixing the attachment portion of the sealing member to one of the surfaces;

positioning a deformable segment carried by the seal portion of the sealing member within a receiving aperture defined by at least one of the surfaces; and

25 securing at least one engagement member to at least one of the surfaces to further define the receiving aperture, such that the deformable segment of the sealing member must deform to be removed from the receiving aperture.

30 26. The method according to claim 25, further comprising applying at least one coating on a side of the sealing member opposite the surfaces following securing the at least one engagement member to at least one of the surfaces.

27. The method according to claim 25, further comprising applying a release material on at least a portion of a side of the sealing member facing the

surfaces prior to positioning the deformable segment within the receiving aperture, to facilitate removal of the sealing member and release of the deformable segment from the receiving aperture.

5 28. The method according to claim 25, further comprising filling an area in the receiving aperture, between the deformable segment and the surface to which the sealing member is fixed, with a filler, following positioning of the deformable segment within the receiving aperture.

10 29. The method according to claim 25, further comprising installing a fastener in an aligned relationship with a portion of the deformable segment prior to positioning of the deformable segment within the receiving aperture.

15 30. The method according to claim 29, further comprising accessing the fastener via an opening defined by the sealing member, wherein accessing the fastener comprises at least partially loosening the fastener and disengaging the deformable segment from the receiving aperture.